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In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice, and add new claims 9-17, as follows:

9. An anti-theft device for a vehicle including a control component that is independently displaceable relative to the vehicle and the displacement of the control component being necessary for driving the vehicle, said anti-theft device comprising a bar member having an axis and a plurality of longitudinally adjacent ratchet teeth along a portion thereof, a body member telescopically receiving said bar member, a lock housing on said body member having a passage through which said bar member extends and a bore opening into said passage, a pawl in said bore, a spring biasing, said pawl into engagement with said ratchet teeth, said pawl and said teeth being configured to allow said bar member to ratchet outwardly relative to said body member from a dismounted to a mounted condition relative to said control component while preventing said bar member from moving inwardly of said body member, a key actuated lock in said housing for retracting said pawl out of passage against the bias of said spring to permit said bar member to freely move inwardly and outwardly of said body member, and said body member and said bar member in said mounted condition including an arrangement to inhibit the displacement of said one control component necessary for driving the vehicle.

10. The anti-theft device as defined in claim 9, wherein said bar member has an outer end relative to said body member and each ratchet tooth has a flat stop surface generally perpendicular to the axis of said bar member, a radially outer end and an inclined ratcheting surface extending

radially inwardly and axially outwardly of said rod from said radially outer end.

11. The anti-theft device as defined in claim 9, wherein said pawl has a flat surface for engaging the stop surface of a ratchet tooth to preclude movement of the bar member inwardly of the body member, and a bearing surface for engaging the inclined ratcheting surface of a ratchet tooth for the ratcheting surface to displace the pawl radially outwardly from said passage against the bias of said spring to permit said bar member to incrementally move outwardly of said body member.

12. The anti-theft device as defined in claim 10, wherein said pawl has a flat surface for engaging the stop surface of a ratchet tooth to preclude movement of the bar member inwardly of the body member, and a bearing surface for engaging the inclined ratcheting surface of a ratchet tooth for the ratcheting surface to displace the pawl radially outwardly from said passage against the bias of said spring to permit said bar member to incrementally move outwardly of said body member.

13. The anti-theft device as defined in claim 9, wherein said bar member is a solid round rod and said body member is a round tube.

14. The anti-theft device as defined in claim 10, wherein said bar member is a solid round rod and said body member is a round tube.

15. The anti-theft device as defined in claim 11, wherein said bar member is a solid

round rod and said body member is a round tube.

16. The anti-theft device as defined in claim 12, wherein said bar member is a solid round rod and said body member is a round tube.

17. The anti-theft device as defined in claim 9, wherein said control component is a steering wheel.